

“Single Married Divorced or Widowed,” Part 2 - 1 Corinthians 7:3-5 – January 18th, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part one of a new series we began last week titled, “Single Married Divorced or Widowed.”
- I'll need to preface all the teachings in this series with a warning of sorts concerning the delicate and mature subject matter we'll deal with.
- I'll leave it to your discretion to decide whether or not you think it appropriate for your keiki, and if not, now's a good time to excuse them.

- By way of introduction, it's important to once again mention that chapter seven on throughout the rest of the book will mark a turning point.
- In chapters 1-6 Paul rebukes the Corinthians for their carnality, and beginning in chapter 7 he answers questions concerning their sexuality.
- This because, to their credit they'd sent Paul a letter asking questions about their sex lives whether single, married, divorced or widowed.

- It's for this reason I decided to teach this chapter by asking what I see as 10 questions they must've asked Paul in this letter they sent him.
- The questions cover everything from sex in marriage, before marriage, outside of marriage, to being single, divorced, and being widowed.
- We looked at the first one in verses one and two, which is so very foundational as it relates to not just that sex has been perverted but why.

1. Why is sex so perverted? (Verses 1-2)

- Here Paul answers their question about whether or not it's okay for even a husband and wife to have sex by virtue of the sexual immorality.
- Because sex had been so perverted and sexual immorality so rampant in that day they were questioning whether or not to have sex at all.
- Thankfully Paul clears this up by saying that yes, a husband should have sex with his wife, and the wife should have sex with her husband.

2. How frequent should sex be? (Verses 3-5)

- v3 Paul tells them the husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and that likewise the wife is to fulfill her marital duty to her husband.
- v4 He says that both the husband and the wife do not have authority over their own bodies, rather, they are to yield them to one another.
- v5 He says do not deprive each other except mutually for a time of prayer but come together so Satan won't tempt for lack of self-control.

- At the risk of sounding crass and insensitive, what Paul is saying here is that a couple should have sex as often as the other one desires it.
- However, let me hasten to say that sometimes there may be physical or even medical limitations that need to be taken into consideration.
- In addition to the mutual consent for a time to devote oneself to prayer, these reasons would be the only time that a couple should refrain.

- Moreover, in the event that this was to be mutually agreed upon it should only be for a short period of time so that Satan doesn't tempt you.
- In other words, by defrauding each other of sexual intimacy, the door can be open for Satan to usher in sexual temptation during this time.
- Sadly, many a husband has blamed his sexual immorality, in whatever form it manifests itself, on his wife because of lacking sexual desire.

- The truth of the matter is husbands and wives will have different sex drives, which is typically much stronger for the man than the woman.
- Actually, this may very well be the question the Corinthians had written to Paul about, such that, they wanted to know what to do about this.
- More specifically, when the husband desired intimacy more often than the wife or even visa versa, which would explain Paul's answer here.

- Be that as it may, there's something else here that we would do well to take note of, and it has to do with other translations of verse three.
- Some translations render this verse, “Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband.”
- The reason I point this out is because of the sexual differences between a husband and wife are such that the wife must have his affection.

- I would contend a husband that will force his wife to have sex void of affection is actually defrauding her of that which she is rightfully due.
- I'll take it a step further and suggest that he is in fact not fulfilling his marital duty to his wife, and as such, is sinning against her and God.
- While I realize this is a strong assertion, consider the number of women who look elsewhere for the very affection their husbands withhold.

- I suppose you could rightly say, that this goes both ways in that the husband will look elsewhere for sex, and the wife will do it for affection.
- In the interest of not getting into too much detail, it's for this reason that the wife can be fully satisfied sexually, as long as it's affectionate.
- However, for the man to be satisfied, the physical act of sexual relations is not usually dependent upon it being intimate and affectionate.

- The fact of the matter is, Satan knows how we're sexually wired even more than we do, which explains why he seeks to tempt in this way.
- Let me explain, first, for the woman, Satan will tempt by way of another man giving her what one has appropriately called the triple “A's.”
- Namely, Affirmation, Attention, and Affection. If a man defrauds his wife of the big three, if you will, he's setting her up as a sitting duck.

- Conversely, for the man, Satan will tempt by way of another woman giving him what he's wired to want, which is the physical act of sex.
- This is why Paul is so adamant about not letting too much time pass before a couple comes back together and unites in the sexual sense.
- The point being is we can become vulnerable over an elongated period of time when our needs as husband and wife continually go unmet.

Dr. James Dobson, “Anatomy of Adultery” - 11 stages from the wife's perspective. <http://drjamesdobson.org/articles/anatomy-of-adultery>

Stage 1 – She reaches for romantic involvement but her husband fails to notice. Her nagging and complaining puts a wedge between them.

Stage 2 - She experiences frustration and anger and begins to bludgeon her bewildered husband for his failures in the home.

Stage 3 - She's in a dangerous position. She is vulnerable to any attractive, available man who will ultimately come into her life.

Stage 4 - An extramarital relationship slowly begins to heat up with more secret meetings and finally it happens; a sexual experience occurs.

Stage 5 - More illicit sexual activity ensues, with all the guilt and fear. She loses all sexual interest in her husband and stops going to church.

Stage 6 - For the wife, the affair continues hot and heavy. Every minute that can be spent with her new lover is grabbed.

Stage 7 - When found out she'll either deny it, and continue lying, or she will break emotionally and weep profusely begging for forgiveness.

Stage 8 - Some women decide not to sacrifice their families and reconcile while others are determined to go with the new lover.

Stage 9 - If she continues with him, despite seeing his flaws for the first time, she still can't go back even knowing her children are hurting.

Stage 10 - The decision to divorce is made; lawyers are consulted; papers are filed; hearings are held and property is divided.

Stage 11 - As events unfold, she weds her new lover and life is exciting for a time. But eventually, it becomes more like her first marriage.

- Here's the bottom line in a sentence, when a couple fulfills their marital obligation sexually and affectionately they'll never even see stage 1.